



Empowering Lives INTERNATIONAL

"Retirement isn't the end of the road, but just a turn in the road."
- Unknown



God spoke to me along a dusty village road in Kenya. It was not with blinding light like Paul's Damascus road encounter, but scales certainly fell from my eyes to expose the glaring horrors of poverty. **I saw shame and desperation on the faces of young mothers and recognized hindrances to faith that seemed insurmountable. I have not been the same since!** God connected my heart to the plight of women struggling to earn money for their families in the only way they knew—brewing illegal, deadly alcohol.

None of the women realized the ugly side-effects of that choice until they came. Chaos in the home, no peace, no time for the children, drunkards everywhere, and the list goes on. All wished for a different life, for renewed hope, for a way out. But let's face it, letting go of the thing you know for the thing you don't know is scary, especially when you can't imagine what to do next.

How reassuring to know Empowering Lives International was already aware of this plight, felt the same heart-hurt God had given me for these women, and was ready to begin training. God bonded my heart to ELI and the mission of igniting change. **I knew when the time came for me to retire, it wasn't the end of the road—it was a turn.**

A turn toward

- shedding light on God's amazing work through ELI
- working side-by-side with national staff to stand with former brewers, love them, and encourage them to fight the good fight
- inviting more brewers for training
- hearing the stories of former brewers and pass them on
- worshipping with these forgiven sisters in the way God desires
- encouraging others to join with ELI in this great work.



Along this turn in the road, I've experienced God rearranging my life, removing things here, adding things there, and giving me hope (even in this uncertain time) that the door will open to encourage my Kenyan sisters again, and that new doors will open to invite more people and communities into this meaningful work. Kingdom-building work is inspiring! Although almost 1400 women have experienced change, the work along this road is not finished.

More need to experience God's unconditional love and learn how to crush poverty. More need to **be inspired by God's incredible work through ELI transforming lives and communities in East Africa.** There are many more stories to tell. So, whether it is a dusty road or a superhighway, I am praying for your "turn in the road" because this turn in my road . . . what a blessing!

Val Roark,

A committed servant empowering women in Africa

Interested in adding to your legacy? Click here to inquire about visiting Africa or volunteering from the USA.

P.S. If you only opened this email because you read the subject and thought Don was retiring . . . rest easy, he is not going anywhere! He has so many incredible ideas and plenty of miles left in the tank!

[Read an
inspiring story](#)

[Give a special gift of hope
to women in need](#)
